NEWS / A9

French film 'The Class' wins top prize at Cannes

BUSINESS / B1

Peso slide continues, now at 43.58 to $1

NEWS / A2

RP hospitals not good for health, says British expert

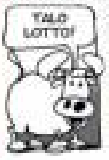
NEWS / A3

Ka Bel remembered in Hong Kong with tears, laughter

SPORTS / A26

Spurs rout Lakers as Ginobli sizzles in Western finals

Poker group goes all in with $1-M tourney in RP



By Francis T.J. Ochoa

IF MORALITY WERE A poker game, then organizers of the Asian Poker Tour (APT) have just gone "all in" with their chips, whipping up a cash-rich tournament

POKER B11

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, May 27, 2008 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 173 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

It's now or never, various groups tell De Venecia

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

IT SOUNDS LIKE A PLEA AT A WEDDING: Speak now or forever hold your peace.

Churchmen, politicians and even Palace officials yesterday urged former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to reveal now rather than later what he knows about the aborted $329-million National Broadband Network

IT'S NOW A4

It was a rubout—not a shootout, says CHR

By Jocelyn R. Uy

NO GUN BATTLE TOOK PLACE. It was an out-and-out execution.

These were the findings of an investigating team sent by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to Batangas to look into the deaths of three men killed by policemen searching for the robbery gang that massacred 10 people inside a provincial branch of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC).

"There was no shootout. There is a reasonable certainty to believe that it was a case of a rubout, an out-and-out summary execution of the three men," newly appointed CHR Chair Leila de Lima announced at a press conference yesterday.

De Lima said the absence of bullet marks in an area where there should have been such marks, as well as the physical setup of the place where the shooting happened, strongly suggested the three men did not engage the policemen in a shootout.

Also, there was no basis for the police to implicate the three men in the May 16 robbery-murders at the RCBC branch in Cabuyao, Laguna, said De Lima, a well-known election lawyer who assumed the CHR chairmanship just a week ago.

Confronted with the CHR findings, the Philippine National Police denied there had been a rubout and insisted that what happened was a "legitimate" encounter.

Police claimed the encounter

IT WAS A4



IN COLD BLOOD was how witnesses described the police killing of three suspected bank robbers, according to CHR Chair Leila de Lima.

GMA: No to tuition hike



THIS ARTIST rendition provided by Nasa shows the Phoenix lander digging a trench on Mars to determine if the arctic region possesses the raw ingredients needed for life to emerge. AP

US spacecraft lands on Mars north pole

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA—NASA'S newest outpost in the solar system is a polygon-cracked terrain in Mars' northern polar region believed to hold a reservoir of ice beneath.

Hours after the Phoenix Mars Lander safely landed on Sunday in the Martian arctic plains, it dazzled scientists with the first-ever glimpse of the Red Planet's high northern latitudes.

A flood of images sent back by Phoenix revealed a landscape similar to what can be found in Earth's permafrost regions—geometric patterns in the soil likely related to the freezing and thawing of ground ice.

"This is a scientist's dream, right here on this landing site," principal investigator Peter Smith of the University of Arizona, Tucson, said in a post-landing news conference.

Phoenix landed on Mars after a 10-month, 679-million-kilometer journey. After a week checking out its science instruments, the lander will begin a 90-day digging mission to study whether the northern polar region possesses the raw ingredients needed for life to emerge.

Phoenix joins the twin rovers on the Martian surface, which have been exploring the equatorial plains since 2004. Unlike the mobile rovers, Phoenix was designed to stay in one spot and dig trenches in the soil.

Early indications show the lander is healthy, Nasa Jet Propulsion Laboratory project manager Barry Goldstein said. The images confirm the lander unfurled its solar panels, hoisted its weather mast and unwrapped the protective covering of its 2.4-meter-long robotic arm. It will be several days before the arm will be unstowed.

"Everything just worked like a charm," said Goldstein, who kept up a Jet Propulsion Laboratory tradition

US SPACECRAFT A8



SCIENTISTS exchange high fives in the mission control room after receiving confirmation the lander had touched down on the Red Planet. AP



ONE of the first photos transmitted by the Phoenix lander shows the surface of Mars.

State colleges ordered to defer fee increase

By Christine O. Avendaño and Kristine L. Alave

AMID THE SOARING COST OF EVERYTHING ELSE, PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a freeze on tuition increases in state universities and colleges (SUCs) this school year.

The President's directive could encourage parents groaning under the heavy load of rising food and fuel costs to transfer their children from private colleges and universities to SUCs.

Ms Arroyo appealed to private schools, which are seeking higher tuition rates, to do the same, especially "in these belt-tightening times."

Education, especially in the private sector, now costs an arm and a leg, and more.

An academic unit costs P2,517.83 at Ateneo de Manila University, P2,046.35 at De la Salle University whose academic year consists of trimesters, P1,400 at Mapua Institute of Technology, P1,072.90 at University of Sto. Tomas, P822 at St. Paul College of Quezon City, and P780 at San Sebastian College.

The cost of education at state universities ranges from P12 per unit at Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) to a maximum of P1,500 at University of the Philippines on the Diliman, Manila and Los Baños campuses (for students whose parents earn an annual income of more than P1 million).

But UP students whose parents earn P80,000 or less a year do not pay tuition and laboratory and miscellaneous fees. In addition, they get a semestral stipend of P12,000.

GMA ORDERS A4

Meralco penalized ₱800K for power disconnection

By Leila B. Salaverria

WHAT A COINCIDENCE.

The Court of Appeals has ordered Manila Electric Co. to pay P800,000 in damages and reimbursements to a private company that complained its power supply was disconnected without notice and that it had overpaid Meralco.

The complainant, Permanent Light Manufacturing Enterprises—a light fixtures and metal cabinet company—was a supplier for the Government Service Insurance System, which has been involved in a media war with Meralco over the latter's power rates.

The court ruling was obtained by reporters on the eve of a board room battle for control of Meralco's management involving GSIS.

In its ruling, the appellate court scolded Meralco for taking almost seven years to attend to the complaint of Permanent Light about its electric meter that was "running at an unusually high speed."

It ordered Meralco to pay Permanent Light P500,000 in temperate damages for the loss the latter suffered as a result of its alleged overpayment of its bills.

The Pasig City Regional Trial Court (RTC) earlier fixed the amount that Meralco should pay at P1.1 million but

MERALCO PENALIZED A4

GSIS execs concede defeat

By Ronnel W. Domingo, Dazen L. Lucas and Norman Bordadora

IT'S ALL OVER BUT THE SHOUTING.

On the eve of the annual stockholders' meeting of Manila Electric Co., officials of the Government Service Insurance System conceded that the attempt by GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia to wrest control of Meralco from the Lopez family had flunked.

Businessmen anticipated as much, with the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) declaring that it preferred that Meralco remained a private enterprise.

"If there are flaws in the laws of the utility's operations or there is mismanagement, I believe this can be addressed without the fanfare that we have seen in the past few weeks," FPI

GSIS A4



MERALCO chair Manuel Lopez (left) and GSIS boss Winston Garcia gird for battle.

Meralco swamped with refund claims

By Ronnel W. Domingo

(Last of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

IN THE RUN-UP TO THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), administration lawmakers assailed the country's biggest electric distribution firm of owing its customers billions of pesos.

The accusations came as the Government Service Insurance System sought to wrest management control of the utility from the Lopezes, who it says are largely responsible for the soaring power rates, considered the second highest in Asia.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte lashed out at the Lopez-controlled firm for "not complying" a Supreme Court-ordered refund of P30 billion in to-

MERALCO SWAMPED A4

Second FrontPage

WEATHER FORECAST

EZ2 FOUR DIGIT

SUERTRES

MEGALOTTO 6/45

P50,299,981.20

‘RP hospitals not good for health’

By Jocelyn R. Uy

HOSPITALS IN THE PHILIPPINES MAY NOT BE good for your health, warned a UK-based scientist visiting the country.

Unknown to many, medical devices made from PVC (polyvinyl chloride) plastic such as IV bags and tubing, examination gloves, hospital flooring and plastic food wrap contain phthalates— chemicals that can damage the liver, kidneys and lungs and can also cause birth defects, especially among males.

This is according to Ruth Stringer, international science and policy coordinator for Health Care Without Harm.

Health Care Without Harm, says its website, is an international coalition of 473 organizations in more than 50 countries working to transform the health care sector so it is no longer a source of harm to people and the environment.

Stringer is also former deputy head of environmental group Greenpeace International's science unit.

Stringer said medical devices made of flexible PVC can leach the phthalate DEHP (di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate) into patients.

Citing studies in Europe and the United States, exposure to DEHP has been linked to severe health problems, including infertility, immune system damage, impaired childhood development, hormone disruption and cancer.

Patients may be harmed when exposed to DEHP leaks from PVC medical devices, Stringer said in a press conference yesterday.

Animal studies, she noted, had demonstrated that the developing male reproductive system was the most sensitive to DEHP exposure.

Stringer said that a recent study found a link between prenatal exposure to DEHP and reproductive changes in boys while another found that higher concentrations of phthalates in breast milk may decrease sex hormone concentrations in baby boys.

“Studies have shown that exposure to high levels of phthalates lower levels of sex hormones and they [cause] the testicles,” said Stringer, who arrived in the country on [illegible] on a three-week study.

While medical establishments in the United States and Europe have started to take action against vinyl products—including the proper labeling of plastic products and resorting to safer alternatives—doctors and health care experts in the Philippines have yet to become aware of its hazards, she said.

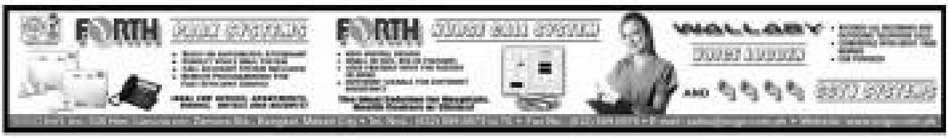
Last week, Stringer visited three hospitals in Metro Manila, where she found “many” PVC products that could “easily be replaced.”

She identified these hospitals as San Lazaro Hospital, Philippine Children's Medical Center and Philippine Heart Center.

She said there were alternative plastic medical devices that hospitals could use such as those made from polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, silicone, ethylene vinyl acetate and multi-layer laminate plastic.

She also urged lawmakers to push for a bill making mandatory the labeling of plastic material to properly guide consumers.





Memories of Ka Bel bring tears, joy to HK OFWs

A tribute to Dolly

GMA orders state colleges to freeze tuition hike

Nonstop increase

Fewer private schools planning tuition hikes

Students flocking to PUP

Balance interest

5 RCBC massacre suspects identified

Robber seen with gun

Inside job

Alarmed turned off

It was a rubout—not a shootout, says CHR

No basis

Witnesses to the killings

Bullet marks

Dragged from bed

It's now or never, various groups tell De Venecia

Is JDV serious?

Private affair

Hearing to be reopened

Figment of imagination

Do what is right, now

Fugitive rebel officer pops up on YouTube, defiant as ever

RP, Swaziland sign 2 pacts







SERVICE KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

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Meralco employee.

Service not only to

customers in our

franchise area,

but anywhere

we can assist

the Filipino.

Service in action –

and not through

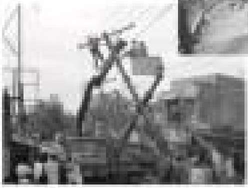
prolonged discussions.

'Yan ang Meralco:

Maka-Diyos. Maka-tao.

TAPAT SA SERBISYO.



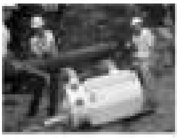




Meralco helped restore heavily-damaged facilities in Bicol during typhoon Milenyo.

Even as we read this, Meralco is helping restore electricity in typhoon-ravaged Pangasinan.

These are areas not within Meralco's franchise but are in Meralco's heart.



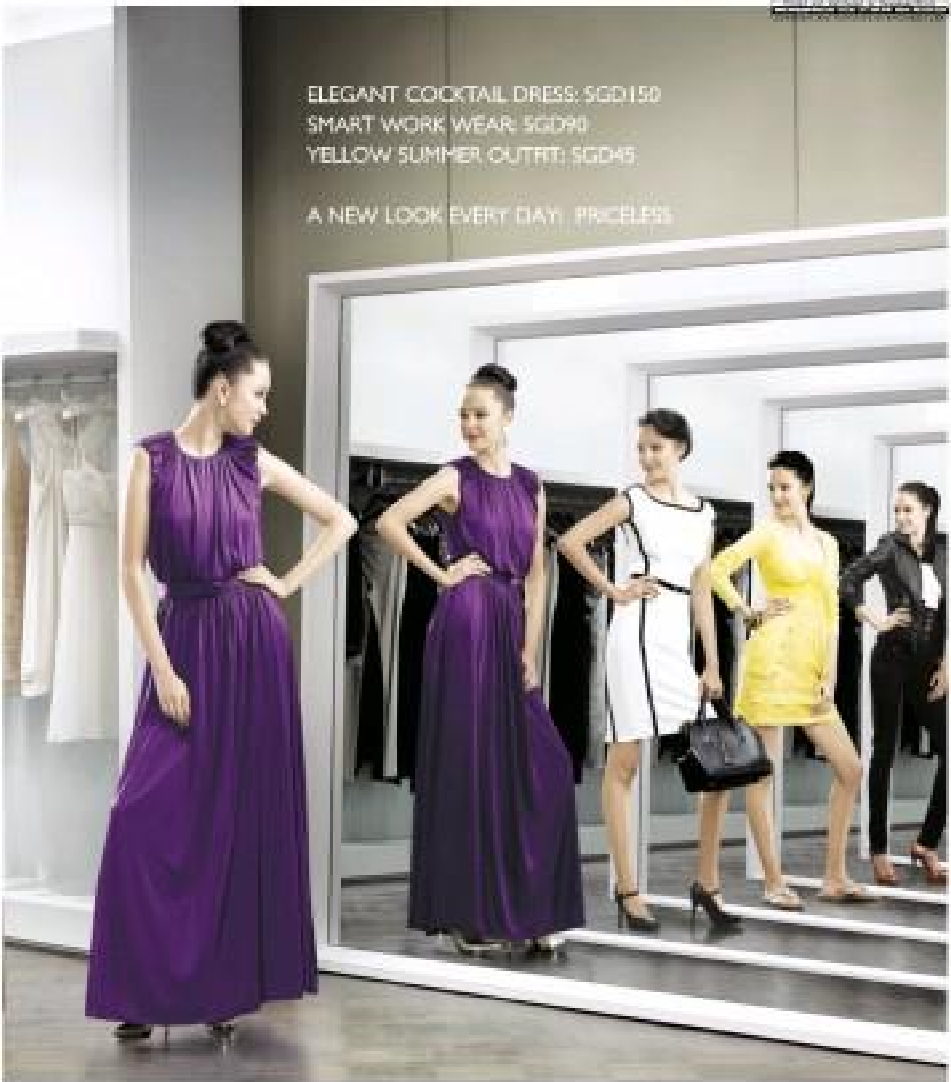






MERALCO

may liwanag ang buhay



ELEGANT COCKTAIL DRESS: SGD150
SMART WORK WEAR: SGD90
YELLOW SUMMER OUTFIT: SGD45
A NEW LOOK EVERY DAY: PRICELESS

GSIS execs concede defeat

Business for lower rates



Garcia to continue fight

'Very ominous'

Meralco swamped with refund claims

Double whammy

Continuous processing

Company use

Service deposit

Interest income, too

Guarantee

Meter rebates soon

Settlement

Settlement

Meralco penalized ₱800K for power disconnection

Meralco contests decision

Importance of electricity

'Remained deaf'

US spacecraft lands on Mars, begins search for life

First since 1976 touchdown

Prime mission

'The Class' takes Cannes top prize

CANNES, FRANCE—THE FRENCH FILM "The Class," a frank tale about classroom life using real students and teachers at a junior high school, won top honors Sunday at the Cannes Film Festival.

Directed by Laurent Cantet, "The Class" was the first French film to win the main prize at Cannes since "Under Satan's Sun" in 1987.

The docudrama was shot in a raw improvisational style to dramatize the drama that unfolds over one school year among students and their teachers in a largely immigrant neighborhood of Paris.

The win was a unanimous decision among the nine-member Cannes jury, said Sean Penn, who headed the panel.

"The movie we wanted to make had to resemble French society, had to be multifaceted, a bit teeming, complex and had to sometimes portray frictions that the film didn't try to erase," Cantet said.

Italian films won the second-place grand prize and third-place jury prize.

Matteo Garrone's "Gomorrah," a study of the criminal underworld in Naples, took the grand prize, while Paolo Sorrentino's "Il Divo," a lively portrait of former Premier Giulio Andreotti, won the jury award.

The Philippines was represented by Brillante Mendoza's "Serbis," which follows the story of a family forced to run a brothel in a movie theater. It, however, failed to place.

Del Toro, best actor for 'Che'

Benicio del Toro won best actor for "Che," Steven Soderbergh's four-hour plus epic about Latin American revolutionary Che Guevara.

Presented as two films, "Che" follows Guevara and Fidel Castro's triumphant guerrilla campaign to overthrow Cuba's government in the late 1950s and Guevara's downfall and execution after trying to foment a similar rebellion in Bolivia in the 1960s.

Del Toro, who costarred in Penn's "21 Grams," also won in a unanimous jury vote, Penn said.

"I'd like to dedicate this to the man himself, Che Guevara," said Del Toro, who also thanked Soderbergh, "who got up every day, forced me to film. ... He was there pushing it, and he pushed all of us."

Soderbergh directed Del Toro to the supporting actor Oscar for 2000's "Traffic."

Sandra Corveloni was chosen best actress for "Linha de Passe," in which she plays the mother of four brothers struggling to make a better life for themselves in a Brazilian slum. It was her first role in a feature film.

Turkish filmmaker Nuri Bilge Ceylan was named best director for "Three Monkeys," which centers on a father who takes the rap for his employer's crime in exchange for financial support for his wife and son, only to have the scheme backfire amid bitter recriminations.

Belgian siblings Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, two-time winners of the Palme d'Or, received the screenplay prize for "Lorna's Silence," about an immigrant woman who enters a sham marriage to gain Belgian citizenship.

The prize for a film by a first-time director went to British filmmaker Steve McQueen's "Hunger," set in a Northern Ireland prison where Bobby Sands and other inmates seeking Irish independence waged a hunger strike in 1981.

The Cannes jury awarded special prizes to Clint Eastwood, who directed the competition film "Changeling," and Catherine Deneuve, who appeared in two films at Cannes this year.

Eastwood was shut out of the key prizes with "Changeling," his sternly received missing-child drama starring Angelina Jolie.

Eastwood never won top honors

Eastwood, who delivered two best picture and director Academy Award recipients with "Unforgiven" and "Million Dollar Baby," has never won top honors at Cannes after five times in competition there since 1985.

Jury president Penn won the best-actor Oscar for Eastwood's "Mystic River," which also was out of the prizes at Cannes five years ago.

"There was a field of such powerful, emotional, moving movies, performances. There were so many films that we thought, it just can't get better," Penn said.

Critics judged the Cannes lineup more harshly. While Cannes presented few outright bombs this time, critics found the films a bit tepid.

Last year's competition included such films as Joel and Ethan Coen's "No Country for Old Men," which went on to win the best-picture Academy Award, and Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Paronnaud's animated coming-of-age tale "Persepolis," which was nominated for the animation Oscar.

A film from Kazakhstan, Sergey Dvortsevoy's "Tulpan," won a secondary competition called "Un Certain Regard."

"Tulpan" is the story of an aspiring shepherd on the isolated Kazakh steppes who must seek a wife so he can enter his chosen trade but is refused by the only prospective bride because she thinks his ears are too big.

Russian director Aida Begic's "Snow," a drama about villagers struggling with the decision to leave their war-ravaged town, won top honors in another Cannes competition overseen by critics. *AP*

Free texts will cause systems crash, says solon

By TJ Burgonio

Miriam: Lopez network sabotaging my ICJ bid

Jamby wants NBI to probe will



BEAUTIES IN BIKINIS

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, May 27, 2008

Howlin' Dave, Pinoy rock icon, dies at 52

Poker group goes all in with $1-M tourney in RP

[illegible]

Sports tourism

[illegible]

Sports purists

[illegible]

Society's moral fiber

[illegible]

Pagcor's advice

[illegible]

Middle- to high-income people

[illegible]

'Pusoy, tong-its'

[illegible]

Rankings

[illegible]

Celebrity event for PGH

[illegible]

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Barack and Hillary

EDITORIAL



Ghosts of murders past

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

No, you don't

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Senators thinking along ZTE lines on Meralco issue

POLITICAL TIDBITS



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

War and peace in a movie

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

Coming to disagreement

NEWSSTAND



John Nery

GRAHAM'S HIERARCHY OF DISAGREEMENT



On every visage a black veil

YOUNG BLOOD

Rafael Lorenzo G. Conejos

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

THEY SAID

Free man

Youth should be involved in building RP's future

LETTERS

Lawyers reminded of virtues needed to succeed

Negligent DBP 'forgot' to forward daughter's remittance

Bankrupt politics a product of evolution

Houseowner claims HGC denied him Maceda law protection



Military files protest over Basilan clash

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION Front (MILF) yesterday welcomed the government's filing of protest over Sunday's clash in Ungkaya Pukan town in Basilan that left two rebels killed and 17 soldiers wounded.



Church rejects anew casino plan in Boracay

C. Mindanao workers to get P10-P15 wage hike

No Spratlys scenario in US, RP Navy games in Palawan

Court stops quarry law; Panlilio to release P33M income



PANLILIO



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It's your guarantee of potency... and an assurance of your peace of mind.



NEWSBRIEFS

CITY OF MALOLOS

Man, 2 sons stabbed dead while sleeping

LEGAZPI CITY

Navy men intercept fishing boat, nab 10

NPA rebel killed in Sorsogon clash

CALAMBA CITY

Cops kill fellow cop in shootout

BOAC, Marinduque

Para-agriculturists for all villages

Witness tags ex-mayor in newsman's killing

Judge denies bail for accused; another victim's widow testifies

Surrender

Cockpit figure

Another hearing



WATER'S FINE

Mining firm finds more hospitable host in Benguet

Cabinet members defend aid to storm victims

GMA cites RPA-ABB pact, but rebels say gains 'very little'


One
CENTRAL
THE PHILIPPINES' GRAND ADDRESS OF SUCCESS
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MEGAWORLD

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Landfill open for Metro trash

But 3-month extension still up to Rizal provincial board

By Kristine L. Alave

RIZAL GOV. CASIMIRO YNARES III YESTERDAY allowed the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to continue using the 19-hectare sanitary landfill operated by the provincial government in Rodriguez town.

In a statement, Ynares said the temporary arrangement would remain in effect until the provincial board has decided whether or not to approve the MMDA's request to use the 19-hectare landfill for three more months.

Recommendation

Ynares said a grant of the three-month extension would depend on the final recommendation to be given by the provincial board which banned the MMDA from using the landfill earlier this month.

The provisional use of the landfill, Ynares said, aims to provide the agency "temporary garbage assistance."

Last November, the Rizal provincial government gave the MMDA six months to use the landfill which, according to Ynares, is supposed to be for the province's exclusive use.

The agreement expired last May 6 but the local government only stopped dump trucks from entering the landfill on May 12.

Alternatives

The MMDA, along with several Metro Manila mayors, has asked Ynares to let them continue using the landfill until it has found alternative dumps.

Metro Manila has been dumping an estimated daily average of 8,000 tons of garbage into the Rodriguez landfill.

DID YOU KNOW

ON MAY 27, 1999, the Senate voted 18-5 to ratify the controversial Visiting Forces Agreement that allowed the resumption of large-scale military exercises between the Philippines and the United States.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Glorietta blast victims' kin seek upgrade of charges

Charges

Agreement

Cleared

5 Manila policemen accused of extortion

MetroBriefs

2 rookie cops in hot water

Taguig pawnshop loses P5M to robbery gang



TEMPTING OFFER

New AFP chief wins battle vs NPA

On Target



Ramon Tulfo

Lebanon elects president after months of turmoil



[illegible]

AFP

Going mobile for business

With many Filipinos selling and marketing their wares using more sophisticated and convenient tools such as the Internet, it is no surprise that some have also tapped the use of their trusty mobile phones to help them in their business.

Alvin Kingson Tan and Oliver Kuy are examples of young entrepreneurs who incorporated the use of their Nokia mobile phones in their respective businesses. They were both recognized as Nokia Mobile Entrepreneurs at its recent awarding ceremony. Nokia, together with the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (better known as GoNegosyo) held the Nokia Mobile Entrepreneur Awards (NMEA), a search for young entrepreneurs who use Nokia mobile technology in their business. Winning a cash prize of P300,000 and P150,000 and a Nokia E61 phone respectively, they both encourage business-minded Filipinos to use mobile technology as a tool in their enterprise ventures.

Maximizing mobile technology

NMEA 1st Runner up Oliver Kuy started his KuyDigital Design Consultancy as a contractual consultant that provided service in the area of design and marketing. It has since grown into a company catering to the visual design needs of multinational companies, local corporations and even individuals. Because of Oliver's more flexible work schedule, he devised innovations through the use of mobile features to effectively service his clients like maximizing the use of email and other applications for online transfers. "I use a Nokia 9500 Communicator because it's a mini computer," adds Oliver. "Besides SMS, MMS, and calls, I use it to send and receive email, browse the Internet, and transfer files."

Oliver depends on Open Source Mobile software services such as WorldMate, eBuddy messenger, Mobile Gmail-Java, Nokia Mobile Softwares, GPS/GPRS, Bluetooth, Wifi, and Infrared. "We make use of mobile service to create our total business package," he adds. "With the whole world as our office, we frequently depend on it to deliver our ideas and concepts." Third party mobile services allow them to send files to clients in several ways - delivering software plug-ins that send files with tracking notification and delivering through browser based technology.



Creating mobile solutions

"I've always depended on Nokia mobile phones because of its reliability and durability so it was an obvious choice which brand I was going to use for my business," said NMEA grand prize winner Alvin Kingson Tan. Alvin's company, Technominds, Inc., customizes SMS and web applications based on the requirements of their clients. "We also have a carrier product called D-Loads which is a universal loading platform that enables subscribers to purchase and sell mobile, Internet, landline, and online gaming prepaid load for a minimum investment."



Alvin will also soon launch Txtcast, the first online SMS broadcast facility, which will enable users to send multiple messages in one click.

"My Nokia N95 and Nokia 6300 play a large role in the everyday operations of the business. It enables me to keep in touch with my partners, employees, and clients but it also helps in keeping track of business meetings and deadlines," he shares. "And since our business is web-based, I'm able to monitor our sales, operations, and system reports via GPRS or Wi-Fi. We also use Nokia 30 GSM Modems that serve as our SMS gateway for incoming and outgoing text messages."

Evolving technologies with the changing times means reshaping business models to keep up with the changing market. Through this project, Nokia and Go Negosyo provides models and lessons that do more than just connecting people to their dreams but also connecting them to a better life.

About the Nokia Mobile Entrepreneur Award

The award was launched last February 29, 2008. The Nokia Mobile Entrepreneur Award has been developed to recognize small entrepreneurs who utilize mobile technology in their business. The award reinforces Nokia's commitment to promote community development and corporate social responsibility which is a fundamental part of its business and brand.

About Nokia

Nokia is the world leader in mobility, driving the transformation and growth of the converging Internet and communications industries. Nokia makes a wide range of mobile devices and provides people with experiences in music, navigation, video, television, imaging, games and business mobility through these devices. Nokia also provides equipment, solutions and services for communications networks.

About Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship

The Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE) is a non-stock and non-profit organization that aims to make the Philippines a thriving entrepreneurial nation. It aims to instill among Filipinos a mindset of optimism and a culture of entrepreneurship, turning them into competitive entre- and intra-preneurs.

The WORLD

Aid workers ready to test Burma promise of access

RANGOON—INTERNATIONAL AID AGENCIES prepared Monday to test promises by Burma's ruling junta to allow their workers access to some 2.4 million victims of a cyclone that devastated the country more than three weeks ago.

Dubai's skyscrapers conceal labor abuse



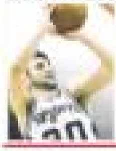
THE ANGKOR Wat temple in Siem Reap province in Cambodia. Tourism is one of the few sources of foreign exchange for the impoverished country, which is struggling to recover after nearly three decades of conflict that ended in 1998.

Cambodia first rice exporter to lift curbs

Clinton could face uneasy return to Senate



CAMPAIGN memorabilia for Clinton now going for 50 percent off while Obama items are still selling at full price.



WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Spurs rout Lakers as Ginobili sizzles /A26

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

72 days to the 29th Summer Olympics

MVP throbs for 28 as Harbour scores



By Jasmine W. Payo

HARBOUR Centre's Mac Cardona (right) contests the rebound with Magnolia's Alfie Grijaldo late in the fourth quarter.

NBL-bound Castro bags 3rd major plum



KING THREE TIMES OVER Jason Castro

By Jasmine W. Payo

Mark the Spark: The steady spitfire that stirs Ginebra

By Cedelf P. Tupas, Contributor

Lions stay unscathed with OT win over Warriors



Pacman starts training behind closed doors



Tanpinco wise-money bet in RP Amateurs

Sportswatch

Bowling, wushu in focus

P3-M pot in WTJ 7-cocker

SJC Int'l Derby June 2

Tañamor faces tough Olympic test

Clean Living





John Hay Invitational golf starts Thursday

Serena rips sexy foe; Kuerten out

Kuerten's last event

Biggest news



Hamilton prevails in Monaco GP

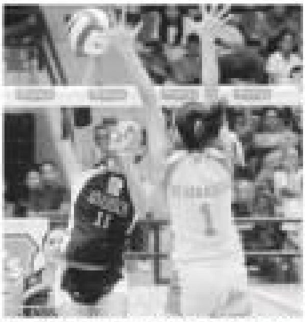


HAMILTON

Mickelson bags 34th PGA title

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Adamson odds-on pick vs Ateneo



NCA World Derby fires off



Petron-Smart t'kwondo lures top female jins

Bulldogs battle Knights for Nike q'final berth

SPORTS

Spurs rout Lakers as Ginobili sizzles





Noah arrested for marijuana



BUSINESS

Editor: Noel D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor: Corrie S. Narisma

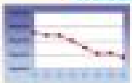


Peso slide continues, now at 43.58 to $1

Local currency down 5.3% so far this year

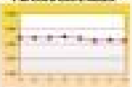
THE PESO YESTERDAY FELL TO A FRESH SIX-MONTH LOW against the dollar as the unabated surge in global crude prices caused investors to shy away from local stocks and bonds.

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Stocks close lower



Survey shows it's easiest to start business in Taguig

IN THIS ISSUE



FMIC Q1 net dips to ₱180M

By Elizabeth Sanchez-[illegible]

FIRST METRO Investment Corp. (FMIC), the investment banking unit of the Metrobank Group, posted a net income of P180.2 million in the first quarter, down 78 percent from P811.5 million in the same period last year, it said in a financial report to the stock exchange.

Income was affected by lower interest income, higher financing charges and other expenses.

Interest income, from interest earned or collected from loans and bank deposits, dropped [illegible] percent to P[illegible] million from P[illegible] million due to reduced PS Bank and Metrobank placements and the reduction in Metrobank current and dollar accounts.

Investment banking fees for the first quarter of 2008 contributed P75.77 million to the total revenue generated.

The company, however, continued to be an active force in the investment scene as it closed significant deals in the first quarter.

The fees came from deals with the TKC Steel (P21.4 million), Filinvest (P34.3 million), Manila Electric Co. (P12.8 million), Stradcom Int'l Holdings (P9.3 million), Ayala Corporation (P5 million), GBI Power Co. (P3.1 million), SM Prime Holdings (P3 million) and Rockwell Land. ([illegible])



DOF sticks to original borrowing program

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF Finance has reconsidered an earlier proposal to change the government's borrowing program for the year.

Finance Undersecretary and acting National Treasurer Roberto Tan said the DOF decided that the national government could make do with the original borrowing program, at least for the moment.

Under the 2008 fiscal program, the government is supposed to source 70 percent of its borrowing requirements from the domestic market and 30 percent abroad.

The government borrows domestically through the sale of Treasury bills and bonds, and borrows from foreign sources through the sale of sovereign bonds and tapping official development assistance.

The 70:30 borrowing mix translates to P168.7 billion worth of money to be borrowed domestically and P[illegible] billion from foreign lenders.

"It doesn't appear that we will have a material change in our borrowing mix," Tan yesterday said. "Right now we are not recommending any change."

He said the decision to keep the borrowing mix would need the blessing of the Interagency Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), which sets the government's economic and fiscal targets.

The DOF earlier considered changes in the borrowing mix to increase the share of foreign borrowings given the rising interest rates in the domestic front.

Lopez firm puts foreign listing on hold

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

FIRST PHILIPPINE HOLDINGS CORP., a holding firm of the Lopez family, is not about to train its sights on a foreign listing at this time due to sluggish market conditions prevailing abroad.

But the Lopez-owned firm, which holds interests in power distribution, power generation, infrastructure and manufacturing, has admitted it wants to be traded on Wall Street.

Global markets are currently in a slump due to surging oil prices and deepening subprime credit woes that have somewhat crippled the US economy.

FPHC president Elpidio Ibañez said the company has earlier explored the possibility of listing on the New York Stock Exchange.

"If our market capital were big enough, maybe a New York Stock Exchange listing is useful," Ibañez said. "But at today's level, its still not attractive."

At its closing price of P[illegible] apiece, FPHC's market capital stood at P[illegible] billion or roughly $[illegible] million.

Telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., whose American Depositary Receipts are traded on the NYSE, has a market capital worth P[illegible] billion or P11.7 billion at yesterday's close of P2,645 a share.

Ibañez also said FPHC was studying a possible regional listing on the Stock Exchange of Singapore or Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

"But there are no real advantages [in making that move] right now," he said. "You want to go to a bigger stock exchange if you want your shares to be valued more, and if you want to raise more money. [But with the market's condition], it's not the right time to raise more money via equity."

FPHC earlier raised P4.5 billion from the issuance of perpetual preferred shares. These shares, with a dividend rate of 8.[illegible] percent payable semi-annually, will be used to pay outstanding debts, fund strategic acquisitions, and cover capital and operating requirements.

Peso slide . . .

From page B1

25 basis points in the immediate term—before the August-October peak in prices—primarily to signal its seriousness in fighting inflation," New York-based think tank GlobalSource said, citing the central bank's recent pronouncement that it would prioritize inflation over growth objectives.

"A higher policy rate also helps the central bank achieve lower inflation by lowering the tendency for currency depreciation," GlobalSource said in a commentary dated May 22.

Survey . . .

From page B1

than 31 days—including all permits, exemptions, notifications and inspections.

The best performer in supporting business start-ups was Taguig, where it would take about 11 procedures and 27 days to register a new business. Lapu-Lapu was second, with 16 procedures taking an average of 33 days. Marikina was third, with 15 procedures taking about 28 days.

Manila, which represents the Philippines in the World Bank's annual global competitiveness survey across 178 economies, ranked 16th in the sub-national survey with about 15 procedures taking an average of 52 days to start a business.

If Taguig were to represent the Philippines in the global survey in terms of number of days to start a business, it would rank 79th out of 178 countries.

Stocks . . .

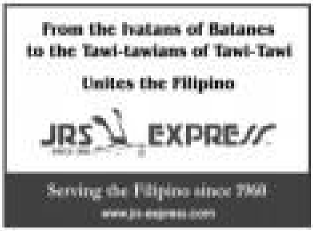
From page B1

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's biggest company by market value, fell 1.3 percent to P2,645.

Manila Electric Co. lost 1.6 percent to P83.

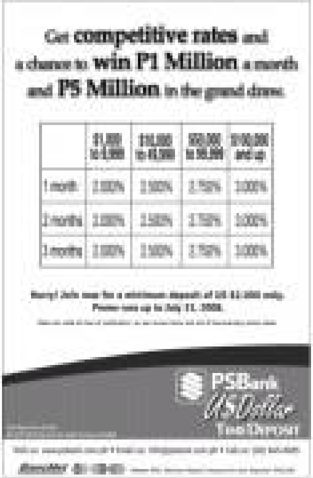
Food and drinks conglomerate San Miguel's A shares, which only Filipinos can trade, were flat at P62.50. Its "B" shares, open to all, fell 2.2 percent to P63. AFP















The spice of life

Mr. Bearbull

Ros Nathan

[illegible]

RP growth seen at 5.8% in 1st quarter

Slowdown in local, foreign demand

By Michelle V. Remo

[illegible]



RP good place for whistle-blowers, study says

[illegible]

Sun attracts 6M subscribers

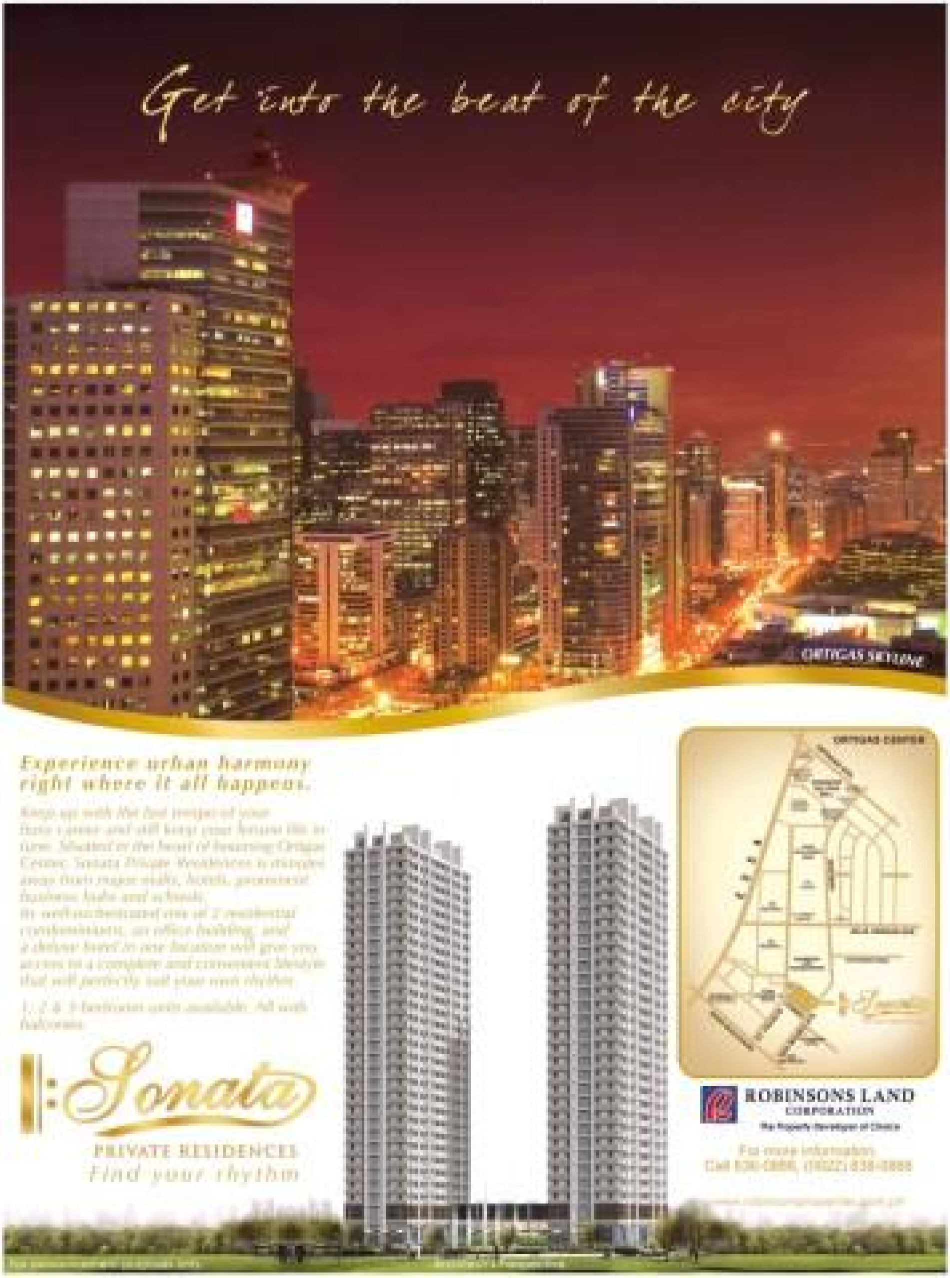
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BUSINESS

One-year T-bill rate drops 6.9 bps to 6.8%

BTr to weed out inactive banks from sale of gov't securities



LIFESTYLE



Auction nets P1.5 million for breast cancer cause

Pink for Life Foundation Inc. subsidizes up to 80 percent of patients' chemotherapy costs


HAUTE couture gown by Inno Sotto with a specially designed handbag by Ben Valdez



Favorite bids


IRENE Martel-Francisco and husband, Dr. Randy Francisco, with a donated painting by former President Cory Aquino

First two stages

AUCTION C2

Believing in ET's is not in conflict with Christianity

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco



ET in America

The fitness wave



FITNESS First country manager Mark Ellis

Making money

Revolutionary

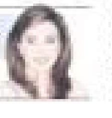


GOLD'S Gym is the world's largest gym chain with 750 clubs worldwide.

Eat breakfast for brain power

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino



Auction nets . . .

from page C1

...Novartis Inc. plus two male patients. (Breast cancer in males is rare but it does happen.)

To avail of the program, present a pathology report and prescription from an oncologist. When medical records show Stage 1 or 2 breast cancer, beneficiaries can collect their medicines from a Novartis and Tahbo representative within a few days.

"It is bad enough to know you have cancer. Worrying and despairing about the costs will only make your situation worse. We want this foundation to keep on rolling all year round. There are so many women out there who need help," Francisco said.

Pink For Life Foundation Inc.'s board of trustees is composed of Francisco, ...

Jolly, exciting prizes up for grabs in Jollibee's 30th anniversary promo

To celebrate its 30 years of astounding growth and success, Jollibee, the country's number one fastfood chain, offers a very special treat to its customers via its "Isang Pasasalamat, Bida ang Saya!" raffle promo. The promo, which will run from April 20 to June 15, 2008, is Jollibee's way of thanking its loyal customers from sports to families who have made Jollibee and its langhap-sarap menu a big part of their lives.

Every purchase of food items worth P150 may already qualify customers to win instant Jollibee food items such as 1 pc. Chickenjoy, Jollibee Spaghetti, Burger Steak, Jolly Crispy Fries and Jolly Krunchy Twirl, as well as discount coupons for either Jolly Hotdog, Jollibee Spaghetti or Burger Steaks complete with drinks.

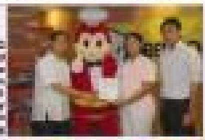
Customers may also get a chance to join in the weekly and grand raffle draws with exciting prizes for the whole family. There will be a total of four winners per weekly draw that will run for eight weeks. Lucky winners will receive a Familya Showcase, comprised of an entertainment showcase for Dad, a kitchen showcase for Mom, and a gadget showcase for the kids. For the grand draw, four lucky winners will go home with a brand new 2008 Ford Everest SUV each.

Twelve lucky customers have already won for themselves the Familya Showcase during the first two three weeks of the promo. Week 1 (April 20-26) winners are Jacqueline Lara of Cavite, Evelyn Manalo of Pampanga, Enrique Florendo of Cavite, and Ramon Pendoza of Misamis Oriental. For Week 2 (April 27-May 3), the winners are Gwendolyn Magsino of Pasig City, Ernesto Calleda of Isabela, Edrick Amoroso of Cavite, and Darling Dinah Rodriguez of Davao City. For Week 3 (May 4-10), the winners are Mary Ann Sikat of Caloocan City, Lauren R. Ramirez of Zamboanga, Glenda Fuent of Cavite, and Ghaynel Marin of Bago City.

So hurry and rush to the Jollibee branch nearest you for that one of a kind Langhap Sarap experience and the chance to win these fabulous prizes! See posters and print ads for details.



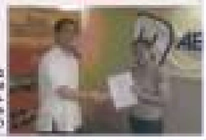
Store Manager and Area Manager handing the Authorization to claim Certificate to the Winner Mr. Ernesto D. Calleda.



JAY SUMULONG (Jollibee Asst. Brand Manager), Jollibee Mascot, Ms. Evelyn Manalo (week 1 winner), Randy Reyes of Abenson Marketing



JAY SUMULONG (Jollibee Asst. Brand Manager), Jollibee Mascot, Mr. Enrique Florendo (week 1 winner), Randy Reyes of Abenson Marketing



JAY SUMULONG (Jollibee Asst. Brand Manager), Ms. Jacqueline Lara (week 1 winner)

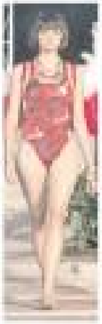


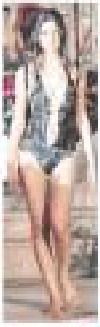
POND'S Miss Pasadas with endorsers of Pond's new line of anti-aging creams

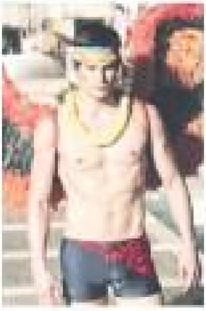


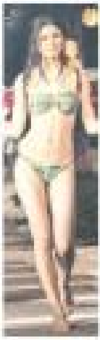
AT THE POND'S gig were Pond's and Unilever bigwigs such as Miss Pasadas, Dondi Bonnes, Renel Cosido, Meryll Yan, Dennis Perez and Romeo Valentino.

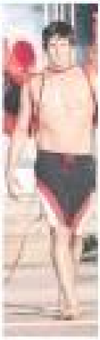
House of beauty unveils new anti-aging technology





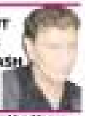






MODELS show off Speedo's newest collection of swimwear at the Tribeca.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using PKL Photo Solutions

MANY WOMEN I KNOW still using Pond's. They include my mom, Lou Ocampo Yabrudy, and Vicky Zubiri. Recently, Pond's announced its biggest re-branding effort in its 150-year history, pakinggan. Guests were welcomed to the first-ever House of Pond's, an elegantly designed venue that captured the essence of Pond's past, present and future. Designed by Patricia Francia and Jessette Bello, and accessorized by Ivy and Cynthia Almario, the venue showcased the brand's new look. The entrance even had beautiful pink tulips, palangga.

House of Pond's directress Olen Lim presented the looks of different eras or milestones in Pond's history.

On the second level, the all-new Pond's beauty counters were unveiled. They sported a modern and feminine look worthy of an icon release. They displayed the latest product lines especially formulated for women, pakinggan.

Unilever skin marketing manager Mutya Lazo gave guests a survey of Pond's newest innovations, developed by the Pond's Institute, no less.

Check out Pond's advanced CLA4 Complex, an anti-aging technology that visibly reduces fine lines, wrinkles and age spots in just seven days, dahlings.

Helping provide an informative survey was Pond's Singapore-trained beauty consultant, noted dermatologist Socorrer Oblepias, an anti-aging expert from the Ageless Center.

Nevertheless, the entire Pond's and Unilever gang all came in their creamy form, pakinggan.

Summer chic

Chic fashionable swimwear was at its best, pakinggan, in the City Swimwear Fashion Show held by Speedo. The 2008 swimwear collection was worn by 12 gorgeous models.

We just couldn't get enough of the Speedo swimwear and those oh la la angels. The show was a great party to end summer, dahlings. We also had the chance to discover this one-of-a-kind urban condominium development by the renowned Landco Pacific Corp. and ATR Kimeng Land Inc., no less.

In another venue, we were treated to loads of great events like the so interesting summer on yoga by Pulse Yoga, craft activities for kids, plus free massage at the poolside cabana. If that ain't entertaining, what is? What on pa? (di ba)

Beaming with pride over this successful happening were the hot movers, shakers and achievers of this project. Nevertheless, they are Tribeca project head Marjorie Ilian and co-promoter Pepsi.

Tribeca Aqua Park, where the Italian show was held, is a 1,500-square meter luxurious multi-activity water and recreation space in a tropical garden layout. It has an infinity pool, beach pool, kiddie water playground and 3 hectare Central Park. Yes, pakinggan, it's virtually your getaway in the heart of metro Manila.

Located in an awesome 9.7 hectare area near the Sucat Interchange, Tribeca features 15 residential towers housing 200 trendy studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units, designed by renowned Recio + Casas, pakinggan.

Call 8426800 or log on to www.tribeca.com.ph. Check it out, dahlings.

Dazzlers, literally

Lately I've noticed that most of the newly built homes or remodeled ones are all using high-end and reliably modern Bticino switches and socket lines. Its Living, Light and Light Tech has made Bticino more popular than ever, dahlings. The brand has more than 32 colors and finishes of cover plates which are easy to install. This is what was found out during the unveiling of the Modus Plus Series at the 8th Bticino Golf Trophy at Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club in Lipa, Batangas.

Heavy rains in Manila did not stop these 70 die-hard golf enthusiasts from taking part in this fun tournament. The construction industry's foremost architects, engineers, contractors, interior designers, and Bticino distributors showed off their full-swing performances. At the awarding ceremonies, there were fun games, awesome raffle prizes and spectacular entertainment. The hosting prowess of Mission Tan made the ceremonies even more dynamic, dahlings. After all, "this tournament was a way of expressing our utmost gratitude to our Bticino partners for their undying support," said managing director Dario Tomasi and marketing and communications AVP Chevorlei Ewing, who were both beaming with pride over this super successful happening, nevertheless, pakinggan.



CLINT Rayyan, Jane Lopez-Baloyo, and Eileen Tan and Carlo Ino



OLEN Lim, directress of House of Pond's

DR. SOCORRER Oblepias, anti-aging expert

MUTYA Lazo, Unilever skin marketing manager



BTICINO Phils. Inc. managing director Dario Tomasi congratulates Switches N' Swings champion, architect Chris Ong.



CHEVORLEI Ewing of Bticino, Fermin Yu, architects Ed Calano and Dan Sinsuan, and Monica Tan



ARCHITECTS Randy Roncan, Mario Nakpil and Mike Pola, and Jack Nava



ARCHITECT Fred Cabidog, Bticino Phils. managing director Dario Tomasi and architects Edgar Lee and Jojo Balderrama



LANDCO executives Cornelius Sebalos, Ms. Cristina M. Zulueta, Alfred Ramos Borgos Jr., and Francis Ceballos, and ATR Kimeng Land's Remo Lacorte



FIRMBIN Christopher Cabiling, Tribeca's Aileen Garcia and Landco's Kaye Alcantara



ALBY Xavier Borgos and wife Marisse

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ENTERTAINMENT







Jowee Ann Marquez, Tito Lopez are in love

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal

Sizzling cover girl

Coming soon: QC Film Fest

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Roxanne explains break-up

By Marinel R. Cruz

For his career







Thespic gems in new movies

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



Exceptional portrayals

Jowee Ann…

From page D1

Delusional

Cool new band

Personal

Roxanne explains break-up

From page D1

First time

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

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6 IRON MAN

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3 ASYLUM
4 INDIANA JONES
5 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL
6 IRON MAN

SM CINEMA movietime

METRO MANILA

IMAX
SPEED RACER
T-REX

THE PODIUM
INDIANA JONES
INDIANA JONES
EXTENDED OPENING HOURS

CINEMA 1
HANNAH MONTANA & MILEY CYRUS 3D Concert

SOON TO OPEN

LUZON

SOON TO OPEN

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

SHARLEY'S PETS BY ROBERT MAGBANUA



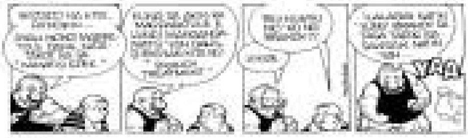
A. LIPIN BY JOSE ABRERA



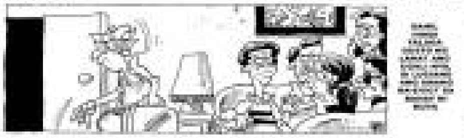
TULDOK



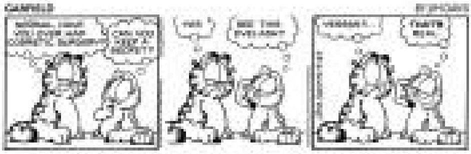
PUGAD BABOY BY PM JUNIOR



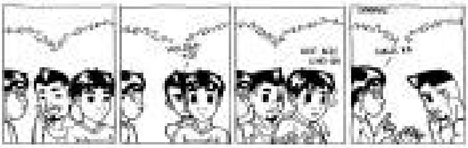
DIVINE COMEDY



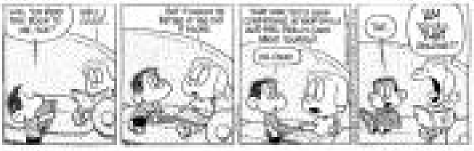
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS



SALAMIN



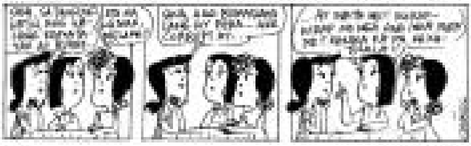
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



ATOMO AND WEBBY



LOVE KNOTS



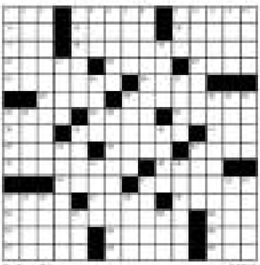
AIKO MACHINE



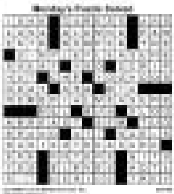
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD



Monday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

		5	8		1	9		
9		6			4			3
2				7		5		8
			4	1	9			
6		1		8				7
8			9			6		4
		4	7		5	8		

Difficulty Level ★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

Roundup



David's dream

LOS ANGELES—Newly crowned "American Idol" David Cook, already topping the iTunes music download charts, said on Friday he hopes to put out a rock album that will "make the hair on your neck stand up." Cook, 25, a Missouri guitarist, was a bartender before auditioning for the most watched show on US television.

Seeing red



HARRISON Ford

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia—Russian Communist Party members condemned the new "Indiana Jones" film on Friday as crude, anti-Soviet propaganda that distorts history and called for it to be banned from Russian screens. "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" stars Harrison Ford as an archeologist in 1957 competing with an evil KGB agent, played by Cate Blanchett, to find a skull endowed with mystic powers.

Sued for samples

NEW YORK—Rappers Kanye West, Method Man, Redman, Common and their record companies were sued on Thursday by late US jazz musician Joe Harriott's daughter, who accused them of using her father's music without approval. The lawsuit, filed by Kathleen Ferdinando in the US District Court in New York, names the rappers along with various labels owned by Universal Music Group. *Reuters*

Cinemalaya: 'Something for everyone'

By Marinel R. Cruz

"THIS YEAR, WE WILL FEATURE stories of ordinary people that do not normally get in the movies," said 2008 Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival director Nestor Jardin of the event's theme this year—[illegible]

Jardin, also the president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, recently announced the 10 short films that will compete for a grant of P100,000 and a trophy.

"The list is eclectic. There's something for everybody here," Jardin said of the finalists. "There's a subject on youth, kite flying, social realism, love and family relations."

Cinemalaya, now in its fourth year, will run from July 11 to 20. The awards ceremony will be held on the 20th at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater.

• "Kadong." This is a story about a six-year-old boy's obsession, as well as family dynamics, and the real values of a hard-fought [illegible] Romeo "Wiki" [illegible] directs.

• "Ang Dating Mga Pasa-[illegible]" [illegible] directs this film about a woman who overcomes the grief of losing her adopted son.

• "[illegible]." Sharon R. Sayo is at the helm of this film that centers on a nine-year-old girl named Sara, whose determination to earn a good education reverberates clearly amid the [illegible].

• "Trails of Water." This is an experimental film, also by Sharon R. Sayo, about a young boy's emotion as seen through his make-believe story.

• "Moments in Length." Directed by Vic Acedillo Jr., this is about two brothers' journey to compete in a kite flying contest. But getting there takes some time. In the end, they face something unexpected and discover something more precious than winning.

• "Only God Knows." In this film, director Mark V. [illegible] focuses on the disturbing and yet unyielding tale about the realities of life in the sprawling metropolis of Manila.

• "Fading Ribbons." [illegible] directs this film about a detective's last mission.

• "My Pet." This is a seven-minute animation about an eight-year-old girl and her relationship with her first pet, a chick, the subject of a class experiment. [illegible] directs.

• "Punggok." This Dexter B. Cayanes movie talks of a prostitute whose life changed when her mute sibling learned to talk, uttering only the word "punggok."

• "Tatan." Directed by L.S. Tumanan, this is about the dynamics and complexities of the relationship of a single father with his daughter in a postmodern, post-[illegible] Filipino society.

E-mail: [illegible]



The 'hidden years' of young Superman and amazing pals



FrancisM back with new music





